



Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: May 11, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

Location: Conducted via Remote Participation (Zoom).

Minutes.

1. Administration.

Members in Attendance: Dan Amstutz (DPCD), Bill Copithorne (DPW), Lenard Diggins, Ray Jones, Melissa Laube, Tycho Nightingale, Corey Rateau (APD), Scott Smith, Laura Swan (Chair), and Shoji Takahashi.

Members Absent: Jeff Maxtutis.

Members of Public in Attendance: Ellen Pfeiffer, Joe Solomon, and James Stubbe.

The Chair provided notice regarding Remotely Conducted Meetings, referring the members to the agenda attachment entitled "Governor Charles Baker's 3/12/2020 Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law". The Chair reviewed the meeting ground rules and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

B. Approval of April 13, 2022 Meeting Notes.

The Minutes of the April 13, 2022 meeting were approved.

C. Correspondence sent/received between April 9 and May 6, 2022.

1. Email from Ellen Pfeiffer dated April 7, 2022, "Speed bumps or stop signs at Magnolia Park?"
2. Email from Joe Solomon dated April 12, 2022, "Park & Appleton Notes for 4/13 TAC Mtg"

D. News about Associate Members.

Several residents have applied to-be Associate Members, and interviews are being scheduled.

2. Public Comments (for information only, not for action).

Town Day. Scott Smith informed TAC that Town Day will return this fall. He mentioned that ABAC will have a booth at Town Day, and there is the possibility of sharing a booth between TAC and ABAC, which might make it easier to staff. Laura Swan added that TAC Town Day materials are being stored at Town Hall and are available for the event. Melissa Laube thinks that TAC presence at Town Day is valuable for the community.

Traffic Calming Magnolia St and Herbert Rd. Ellen Pfeiffer lives on Magnolia St near the intersection of Herbert Rd by Magnolia Park. The park is used primarily by children under the age of 7. She informs TAC that the intersection is “very dangerous”, which she attributes to many drivers cutting through to/from Lake St during the morning and evening commute. This overlaps with the times when neighborhood children are going to Hardy Elementary School or using the park. She is requesting the Town to consider traffic calming measures.

Laura Swan informed TAC that the area is designated a 20-mph speed safety zone, however drivers cutting through the neighborhood streets might not pass 20-mph signs. In addition, she noted that the painted crosswalk at the intersection is faded. She will request that DPW repaint the crosswalk.

Len Diggins inquired if stop signs could be installed on Herbert St to slow traffic. Corey Rateau responded that stop signs are used to control conflicts and not to control speeds. He asked Ellen Pfeiffer to contact APD with speeding complaints. APD will send officers to observe the area and check speeds.

3. Town Issues/Activities (not already on the agenda).

A. Dan Amstutz provided an update from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).

Minuteman Bikeway Planning Project and MassTrails Grant project (Mystic River Path to Minuteman Bikeway). Both projects are coming to completion. Background work is continuing in order to finalize the projects. Public meetings are being scheduled in June. DPCD is working on grant applications to fund next steps of the Mystic River Path to Minuteman Bikeway project.

Mass Ave and Appleton St. The Design Review Committee for Mass Ave Appleton St will meet on May 24. Stantec, the consultant on the project, will

discuss its proposal and receive feedback from the committee. A public meeting is scheduled for June 14. DPCD is working on grant applications to fund changes to the intersection.

Chestnut St. Stantec, the consultant on the project, is conducting data collection and land surveys.

Jenny Raitt, Director of DPCD, will be leaving to become Executive Director of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments. Her last day will be June 3.

B. Corey Rateau provided an update from the Police Department (APD).

Logistics for events. Town is hosting several events in the coming weeks, which require coordination including road races, arts festival, and memorial bike ride.

Community Traffic Safety Grant mainly directed to drivers under 21 years and drivers over 60 years. Seminar on traffic safety will be next Thursday, May 19, at the recently renovated Arlington Community Center. Grant money is available for thirty people to attend In Control Driving School, and a raffle will be held for attendees.

C. Bill Copithorne provided an update from the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Construction season is underway. Line striping is being scheduled with the contractor. Evening temperatures have been cool, so painting has not yet started. Priority areas will be addressed such as Lake St bike symbols, and Lowell St lines and symbols.

Sidewalk work is beginning in East Arlington (Orvis Rd and Brooks Ave) to repair existing sidewalks and install missing sections. Standard paving and sidewalk work will be done on Medford St in the July – August timeframe.

Preparations are being made for resurfacing near Dallin School (Rhinecliff St and Renfrew St). Rubber chip seal application is scheduled to occur in August, although it is weather dependent. DPW will be coordinating with the line striping contractor to make sure all crosswalks are painted. DPW is not anticipating any challenges with the start of school in September.

The Town received MassDOT review comments on the project plans for the Mystic St Bridge (near Police Station). The consultant (Gill Engineering) is finalizing bid sets for project, with the goal of receiving bids by early fall and the start of construction next spring. This timeline is due in part to the lead time for receiving materials, particularly steel, which has been extended in last few months. The project will be done in two phases permitting lanes of traffic in both directions to limit disruption.

4. Update: Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.

Complete Streets is a MassDOT program for municipalities to-be eligible for certain grants (\$400,000 per 4-year cycle), and an update to the Town's Complete Streets Prioritization Plan is to-be completed as part of Connect Arlington. An updated project list must be approved by MassDOT, which can be updated every two to three years. These projects would then be eligible to apply for funding under Complete Streets.

Funding is available for technical assistance in updating the project list including cost estimates for projects. The Town is in discussion with MAPC for its assistance to revise the prioritization plan. Technical assistance funding is available from MassDOT. The plan will require cost estimates and perhaps concepts. The Town is presently looking at starting the update in early fall, as MassDOT contracting can take a few months.

5. Update: Signal at Park Ave and Appleton St.

Traffic counters were placed last week to obtain data necessary to reinvestigate the signal warrants and for a consultant to analyze the intersection.

Joe Solomon had emailed TAC on April 12, 2022, "Park & Appleton Notes for 4/13 TAC Mtg". He raised three points in discussion with neighbors in the area.

- (1) The traffic light at Park Ave and Florence Ave has a pedestrian phase after the Park Ave light turns red. For pedestrians, it might be safer if the pedestrian phase happens after the Florence Ave light turns red, as vehicle speeds on Florence Ave are slower and the roadway is not as steep as Park Ave. Laura Swan responded that changes to light timing require engineering approval and unfortunately are not as simple as it seems. However, TAC can include in the scope of work for the consultant to consider the Park Ave corridor including Appleton St and Florence Ave for the traffic light analysis.
- (2) Park Ave between Rt 2 and Mass Ave has three sections of different speed limits: 25 mph; 35 mph; 25 mph. Joe Solomon observed that there is no 25-mph sign on southbound Park Ave near Oakland Ave. Corey Rateau responded that he will check for the presence of the sign, noting that he seems to recall the 25-mph stretch starting further south than Oakland Ave (closer to the fire station). About two years ago, APD and DPW verified and corrected signs along Park Ave.
- (3) Last week, neighbors observed a "near miss" of 5th graders walking home and a vehicle turning onto Appleton St from Park Ave. Joe Solomon requested APD to place the speed-radar trailer on Park Ave near Appleton to remind drivers of the speed. Corey Rateau responded that APD does not place the trailer on steep roadways including Park Ave.

6. Update: Summer Street Crosswalk.

Shoji Takahashi updated TAC that the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Arrival and Dismissal Audit for Peirce Elementary School has been completed and is awaiting internal quality control and quality assessment review before being released to Principal Ahmadi of Peirce. The SRTS Audit remarks on Summer Street crossing, which is understood to be consistent with the TAC Working Group assessment.

7. Update: Data collections

TAC hired a firm to collect traffic data at the following locations. The data have not yet been received.

- Overlook Rd Traffic Calming
- Crosby St Traffic Calming
- Mt Gilboa Traffic Calming (Westminster Ave)
- Eastern Ave

8. Update: Bates Rd Left Turn

Bill Copithorne will provide a draft memo/response to the Select Board for next meeting.

9. Update: Everett St and Mass Ave

Bill Copithorne will provide a draft memo/response to the Select Board for next meeting. No Parking Signs have been placed by DPW.

10. Update: Thompson Area Traffic Calming

Laura Swan observed the intersection of N. Union St and Norcross St on Friday morning. This intersection is adjacent to Thompson School and the playground. A crosswalk is marked on north side only. Pedestrians also might be crossing on the unmarked south side. She will conduct additional observations, including afternoon times, to examine whether crossing at the south side is causing conflicts between drivers and pedestrians.

11. Update: Dallin SRTS.

Laura Swan observed the Dallin School morning drop off during the pilot test. It was a foggy March day with light drizzle, and she spoke with the George St Traffic Supervisor, who thought it was going smoothly and was much safer. Drivers are obeying the signs. Teachers are parking on George St, which calms traffic and prevents drivers from dropping off students on George St.

The designated drop off line on Florence Ave is fast and efficient. Laura Swan noted a queue of 3 – 4 cars. Adults in high-visibility vests and trained 5th-grade student were helping with passenger unloading. It did not appear that additional automobiles were parking on side streets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.